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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET REQUEST FOR RESIDENT CORRESPONDENTS

REF; A. MOSCOW 5597, B. MOSCOW 3908, C. (1975) STATE

209780

1. DEPARTMENT'S WORDING REF C REQUESTING FOR AMERICAN
MOSCOW CORRESPONDENTS THE RIGHT "TO TRAVEL BETWEEN MOSCOW
AND LENINGRAD WITHOUT HAVING TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR
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"SUCH TRAVEL" WAS IMPRECISE. WE INTENDED TO REQUEST THAT

SOVIETS IMPOSE SAME REGIME FOR SUCH TRAVEL AS APPLIED TO DIPLOMATIC TRAVELLERS. SINCE MARCH 1 SUCH A REGIME HAS APPLIED TO JOURNALISTS, AND IN OUR VIEW OUR ORIGINAL REF C DESIDERATA HAS BEEN MET. JOURNALISTS IN EFFECT NOTIFY SOVIET AUTHORITIES ABOUT INTENDED TRAVEL, AND ONUS IS ON THE AUTHORITIES TO INFORM THE TRAVELLER IF FOR SOME REASON THE TRAVEL CANNOT TAKE PLACE. EVEN AFTER THERE ARE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS RESIDENT IN LENINGRAD (I.E., THE PENDING UPI-TASS ARRANGEMENTS), WE DOUBT THE SOVIETS WOULD RELINQUISH THEIR ABILITY TO SEAL OFF LENINGRAD FROM AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS RESIDENT IN MOSCOW IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIETS FOR SOME REASON ARE NOT PUSHING THE PENDING VISA REQUEST TO ASSIGN OREKHOV TO SAN FRANCISCO AS KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT. IF EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED ANY RECENT OFFICIAL INQUIRIES, PLEASE ADVISE. IN ABSENCE OF SOVIET PRESSURE AND ANY POSITIVE REASONS FOR MOVING AHEAD ON OREKHOV VISA CASE AT THIS TIME, WE ARE INCLINED TO SIMPLY SIT ON IT FOR AWHILE.

3. PROPOSED IMEMO CORRESPONDENT WOULD BE DIFFERENT FROM USUAL JOURNALIST BECAUSE OF NATURE OF PUBLICATION. ALSO, WE UNDERSTAND SOVIETS ENVISION THAT IMEMO CORRESPONDENT WOULD ALSO SERVE AS LIAISON WITH US ACADEMIC CIRCLES. WE ARE HOLDING THAT REQUEST IN ABEYANCE PENDING EMBASSY'S CONVERSATION WITH INOZEMTSEV AND ITS RECOMMENDATION.

4. IN DEPARTMENT'S VIEW, LITGAZ REQUEST IS STRAIGHT-FOWARD REQUEST TO OPEN A NEW BUREAU IN NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON, CITIES WHICH ALREADY HAVE RESIDENT SOVIET JOURNALISTS, AND IN ABSENCE OF ANY PROBLEMS WITH OPENING NEW US BUREAUS IN MOSCOW WE PLAN TO GO AHEAD AND APPROVE.
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